

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant is pleased to note the Examiner indicated that claims 2-5, 6/2-5, 8/2-5, 9/2-5, 11/2-5, and 13/2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The Examiner states that Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as “Prior Art” because only that which is old is illustrated. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Figure 1 and labeled Figure 1 with the legend “Prior Art.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to Figure 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 9/1, 10, 11/1, 12, 13/1, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jang et al. (US Patent No. 5,552,017).

Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 14 and 15 under § 102(b) is rendered moot.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to further recite “a foot-print of said placement stage covers a portion of said exhaust port.” Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found throughout the initial disclosure. For Example, the Examiner is directed to Figure 4 and related description in the specification for support to the added limitation. The amendments to claim 1 obviate the above rejection. By providing a placement stage with a foot-print covering a portion of the exhaust port, a high exhaust rate is achieved and the ultimate vacuum is increased (see, for example, page 3 of the specification).

In contrast, Jang et al. merely discloses an exhaust port 24 (illustrated in Figures 2-4) which is totally covered by a foot-print of the substrate electrode 7, i.e. the placement stage of wafer 10. Therefore, Jang et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest “a foot-print of said placement stage covers a portion of said exhaust port,” as now recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims 9-13 which are directly dependent from claim 1, are patentable and respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 9-15 under § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 6/1, 7, 9/1, 11/1, 12, 13/1, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamiyashiki Masaru (JP Patent 11-243079) (hereinafter JP '079).

Claims 14 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 14 and 15 under § 102(b) is rendered moot.

JP '079 reference merely discloses a chamber having an exhaust port 11 which is located on a side of table 2, i.e. the placement stage. Consequently, the placement stage 2 of JP '079 does not cover a portion of the exhaust port 11. Therefore, JP '079 reference does not disclose, teach or suggest “a foot-print of said placement stage covers a portion of said exhaust port,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims 6, 7, 9, 1-13 which are directly dependent from claim 1, are patentable and respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 6/1, 7, 9/1, 11/1, 12, 13/1, 14 and 15 under § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al. (US Patent No. 5,552,017).

Claim 8 is dependent from claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above with regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 8 under § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: 

Dale S. Lazar
Reg. No.: 28,872
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2126
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

DSL/KG

00909
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000